CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 22 OCTOBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UKRAINE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE STATEMENT OF THE PRESS CENTRE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF UKRAINE DATED 24 SEPTEMBER 1993

I have the honour to forward to you the attached Statement of the Press Centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine dated 24 September 1993.

I would be most grateful if, in accordance with established procedure, this statement could be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and circulated to all delegations, both member States, non-member States, participating in the work of the Conference.

(Signed) OLEXANDR SLIPCHENKO
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of Ukraine

PRESS-STATEMENT

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation issued the Press-Statement on the occasion of the denunciation of the "Protocol on the removal to the Russian Federation of all nuclear warheads located in Ukraine " signed on 3 September this year, referring to the fact, that the photocopies of this document recently published in the newspaper "Kievskiye vedomosti" bore well noticeable corrections made by hand, which allegedly changed completely the content of the agreement.

In connection to the abovementioned the Press-Centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine is authorized to state the following.

Contrary to the usual diplomatic practice, members of the Russian delegation submitted to the Prime-Ministers of Ukraine and Russia for signing the version of the text differing from the one discussed and agreed upon by the experts of the delegations.

Since the text submitted for signing contained provisions contradicting the national interests of Ukraine, representatives of the Ukrainian side made the abovementioned corrections in the presence and with agreement of the representatives of Russia. The Russian side did not make any objections or protests. Due to technical reasons the document was not re-typed .

It is astonishing that the Press-Statement of the MFA of the Russian Federation maintains that the Russian side annuled this Protocol immediately, of which act the representatives of Ukraine were allegedly informed. This does not correspond to reality absolutely. It is not clear, why in this case the Russian side needed 14 days to make the statement on the denunciation of the Protocol and why the state, as influential as Russia, has chosen for this such an unusual for diplomatic practice a method as the press-statement.

The Ukrainian side regards the mentioned Press-Statement as lacking objectivity, distorting real events and amounting to an awkward attempt of unfounded discredit of one of the members of the Ukrainian delegation.